

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment accompanies a Request for Continued Examination, and is a response to the Final Office Action of March 6, 2006. Applicants have carefully considered the rejections of the Examiner in the above-identified application. In light of this consideration, Applicants believe that the claims as now amended are allowable. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejection of the claims now pending in the application.

In the first office action new drawings were indicated as required. Claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 9, and 10 – 12, have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,112,203 to Bharat et al. (hereinafter Bharat) in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,886,129 to Raghavan et al. (hereinafter Raghavan). Claims 3, 5, 8, 10, 13, and 15, were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bharat and Raghavan in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,633,868 to Min et al. (hereinafter Min).

In this second office action claims 1-15 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 as directed to non-statutory subject matter. Claims 1, 6 and 11, have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112. Claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 9, 11, 12, and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,924,104 to Earl (hereinafter Earl). Claims 3, 5, 8, 10, 13, and 15, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bharat and Earl in further view of Min.

Claims 1-15 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 as directed to non-statutory subject matter. That rejection must be respectfully traversed as improper. Documents are very much to be included as “anything under the sun that is made by man”. Further a document is clearly an item of manufacture. Further the claimed invention here directed to a methodology of assembling a document does not fall within one of the judicially created exceptions, it is not directed to an abstract idea, natural phenomena, or law of nature. The claimed invention here is directed to a methodology of assembling a document, and is thus

useful and directed to a practical application. Further, the claimed invention is drawn to a transformation of web page data into a document representation.

The Examiner is directed to: "Interim Guidelines for Examination of Patent Applications for Patent Subject Matter Eligibility" to be found at: http://www.uspto.gov/web/offices/pac/dapp/opla/preognotice/guidelines101_20051026.pdf; and in particular page 16 thereof where it is stated:

"If the invention as set forth in the written description is statutory, but the claims define subject matter that is not, the deficiency can be corrected by an appropriate amendment of the claims. In such a case, USPTO personnel should reject the claims drawn to nonstatutory subject matter under 35 U.S.C. § 101, but ***identify the features of the invention that would render the claimed subject matter statutory if recited in the claim.***"

This last item as bolded, italicized, and underlined, has not been done. If the Examiner wishes to provide such input, the Applicants are very willing to consider such a suggestion.

A prima facie case for a 35 U.S.C. §101 rejection has not been made out and thus the rejection is improper. The Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

Claims 1, 6 and 11 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112. These claims have been amended and it is believed that the amendments overcome this rejection.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 9, 11, 12, and 14, have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bharat in further view of Earl. Bharat teaches that in a computerized method, a set of documents is ranked according to their content and their connectivity by using topic distillation. The documents include links that connect the documents to each other, either directly, or indirectly. A graph is constructed in a memory of a computer system. In the graph, nodes represent the documents, and directed edges represent the links. Based on the number of links connecting the various nodes, a subset of documents is selected to form a topic. A second subset of the documents is chosen based on the

number of directed edges connecting the nodes. Nodes in the second subset are compared with the topic to determine similarity to the topic, and a relevance weight is correspondingly assigned to each node. Nodes in the second subset having a relevance weight less than a predetermined threshold are pruned from the graph. The documents represented by the remaining nodes in the graph are ranked by connectivity based ranking scheme.

It is essential to the understanding Bharat that Bharat is directed to a search engine and as such is sorting through pages already identified by a simple word string search (please see column 1, lines 14-54). Bharat is concerned with solving the problem of answering a search engine query, and thus with ranking a set of documents to point to in response to that query. The Applicants however, are teaching that having identified where one document page is, how to find and pull together all relevant pages associated with that document into a single coherent document (please see page 5, first paragraph, of the Applicant's specification). A single coherent document representation suitable for subsequent printing and downloaded viewing. As such the Applicants teach "to weed out links which have properties that are not characteristic of typical *intra-document* links" and thus eschew all other documents. Bharat on the other hand, will not link (ie. reject) self referencing pages so as not to unduly influence the search outcome (see column 5 lines 17-20) and thus is more interested in inter-document links for the sake of ranking links. Bharat does not assemble a single coherent document but a link list of search results responsive to a word query.

Thus Bharat does NOT examine "the collective set of identified candidate document pages to weed out links which have properties that are not characteristic of typical intra-document links".

Earl fails to provide what Bharat lacks. Earl provides link lists just like Bharat but provides different presentation styles for the links depending on whether they are intra-document or inter-document. Thus Earl also does NOT examine "the collective set of identified candidate document pages to *weed out*

links which have properties that are not characteristic of typical intra-document links”.

Therefore Earl in turn fails to provide what Bharat lacks, and thus the combination of Bharat and Earl fails to provide the requirements for a Prima Facie case of obviousness and thus the rejection is improper. The Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the claims as now amended.

Claims 3, 5, 8, 10, 13, and 15, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bharat and Earl in view of Min. The combination of Bharat and Earl fail to provide the requirements for a Prima Facie case of obviousness as noted above. Min in turn fails to provide what Bharat and Earl lack, and thus the combination of Bharat, Earl, and Min also fails to provide the requirements for a Prima Facie case of obviousness and thus the rejection is improper. The Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the claims as now amended.

No additional fee is believed to be required for this amendment; however, the undersigned Xerox Corporation attorney authorizes the charging of any necessary fees, other than the issue fee, to Xerox Corporation Deposit Account No. 24-0025.

In the event the Examiner considers personal contact advantageous to the disposition of this case, he is hereby requested to call the undersigned attorney at (585) 423-6918, Rochester, NY.

Respectfully submitted,

/Christopher D. Wait/

Christopher D. Wait
Attorney for Applicant(s)
Registration No. 43,230
Telephone (585) 423-6918

June 6, 2006
CDW/fsl
Xerox Corporation
Xerox Square 20A
Rochester, New York 14644